Amendment to the protection of Human Rights Act

*340. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission had demanded an amendment to the Protection of Human Rights Act, observing that "good governance would remain an unfulfilled dream";

(b) if so, in what context and background this observation and demand was made and what is the nature and substance of the amendment sought; and

(c) the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRI PRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has proposed several amendments to the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. The Amendments suggested by the NHRC are sensitive in nature and seek to alter the scope and character of the functioning of the human rights institutions established under the provisions of the PHR Act, 1993. The amendments, *inter-alia,* seek to empower the NHRC to enquire into the allegations of violations of human rights by the Armed Forces as against the special procedure prescribed under the Act in such cases, to take cognizance of and inquire into allegations of violation of human rights notwithstanding the cognizance thereof taken by any other Commission, except a Commission appointed under the Commission of Inquiries Act, 1952, constitution of Human Rights Courts mandated to dispose off cases within a time limit of three months, enabling the Commission to publish its Annual Reports or Sepcial Report on expiry of a period of three months of its receipt in the Government even if the Report has not been placed in Parliament/State Legislatures etc. These amendments are being examined keeping in view various factors like the objectives of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, the role and character of the human rights institutions provided for under the Act etc.